

# Church Wick & Lyminster *Times*

**DECEMBER 2021**



**Hi**

**Welcome to our *Church Times* for Lyminster and Wick in December - a busy time of the year and with plenty going on across our churches.**



I hope that you're able to join in with as much as you feel able, and whether I get the chance to say it or not may I wish you a very blessed Christmas and New Year.

Sometimes though, I find that the busyness of December can get in the way of taking in the momentous news that it's all about - that a God rejected by the very people he had made, loved the world so much that he entered into the world.

That's the meaning of the name Emmanuel - God with us. And he didn't just come to live with us, to set an example

or give us his wisdom. He came in order to die in our place, so that when we trust in him we would have a place with him in his everlasting kingdom.

It truly is the greatest gift ever given - Jesus gives himself - so that we would know his forgiveness, his love, his peace and his presence. So that we would know him.

More than anything, I hope that you can know that wonderful gift this Christmas time.

God bless,

*Tam*

# **CHRISTMAS**

**WITH ALL SAINTS, WICK &  
ST MARY MAGDALENE, LYMINSTER**



## **CHRISTINGLE**

**INCLUDING BUILD YOUR OWN CHRISTINGLE**

**WICK HALL (OUTSIDE IF DRY), SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 3.30PM**

## **ALL-AGES CHRISTMAS CAROL CELEBRATION**

**YOUR FAVOURITE CAROLS AND THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

**WICK HALL, SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER, 4PM**

## **TRADITIONAL LESSONS & CAROLS**

**CANDLELIT CAROLS AND READINGS**

**LYMINSTER CHURCH, SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER, 4PM**

## **CRIB SERVICES**

**CHILDREN CAN COME DRESSED IN NATIVITY COSTUME  
AND BRING A GIFT FOR FAMILY SUPPORT WORK IF YOU'D LIKE!**

**FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER, BOTH AT 4PM**

**A SERVICE AT BOTH WICK AND LYMINSTER CHURCHES**

## **CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY SERVICES**

**COME AND CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

**LYMINSTER CHURCH, FRIDAY 24TH DECEMBER, 11PM**

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SATURDAY 25TH DECEMBER, 10AM**

**[ALLSAINTSWICK.ORG.UK/CHRISTMAS](http://ALLSAINTSWICK.ORG.UK/CHRISTMAS)**





# Alpha

## and Next Steps

We will be looking to run a new Alpha in the New Year across both churches. Now's a good time to be praying for

anyone you might be able to invite - perhaps to a Christmas service and then to Alpha?

In the New Year Tom will also be starting a new opportunity for 'next steps' on the Christian journey. This is for anyone who might have done Alpha but isn't yet confident to join a homegroup, or someone rediscovering their faith or just if you can't quite commit to a home-group at the moment.

It will meet on **Monday evenings** for a mixture of prayer, quiet reflection and discussion and it's a 'come when you can' type of group.

Look out for more concrete details on both soon!

## LYMINSTER Churchyard

For many years, volunteers have maintained the churchyard at Lyminster ensuring that those who visit loved ones' graves can do so safely. This has increasingly been a challenge for a small team of volunteers and so Lyminster PCC are asking for your help and support to continue the maintenance of our Churchyard.



We have a very generous offer from a local gardener, but ***could you make a small monthly donation to help us cover those costs?*** It doesn't need to be much, paper forms are available from Lyminster Church or you can go to [www.lyminsterchurch.org.uk/giving](http://www.lyminsterchurch.org.uk/giving) and select 'Churchyard Maintenance' from the drop down menu, and (if you can), tick the recurring giving box. **Thank you!**



1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

2 Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."

3 Let the house of Aaron say: "His love endures forever."

Let those who fear the Lord say: "His love endures forever."

5 When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord;  
he brought me into a spacious place.

6 The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?

7 The Lord is with me; he is my helper.  
I look in triumph on my enemies.

8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans.

9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

10 All the nations surrounded me,  
but in the name of the Lord I cut them down.

11 They surrounded me on every side,  
but in the name of the Lord I cut them down.

12 They swarmed around me like bees,  
but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them down.

13 I was pushed back and about to fall, but the Lord helped me.

14 The Lord is my strength and my defence;  
he has become my salvation.

15 Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:  
“The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!”

16 The Lord’s right hand is lifted high;  
the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!”

17 I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

18 The Lord has chastened me severely,  
but he has not given me over to death.

19 Open for me the gates of the righteous;  
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord  
through which the righteous may enter.

21 I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
you have become my salvation.

22 The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

23 the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 The Lord has done it this very day;  
let us rejoice today and be glad.

25 Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success!



26 Blessed is he who comes in  
the name of the Lord.

From the house of  
the Lord we bless you.

27 The Lord is God, and he has  
made his light shine on us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of  
the altar.

28 You are my God, and I will praise you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.



# Meditation on Psalm 118

**Martin Luther claimed this Psalm as a very personal Psalm.**

*"This is my own beloved psalm. Although the entire Psalter and all of Holy Scripture are dear to me as my only comfort and source of life, I fell in love with this psalm especially. Therefore I call it my own. When emperors and kings, the wise and the learned, and even saints could not aid me, this psalm proved a friend and helped me out of many great troubles. As a result, it is dearer to me than all the wealth, honour, and power of the pope, the Turk, and the emperor. I would be most unwilling to trade this psalm for all of it."*

This is the last of the great 'Egyptian Hallel' Psalms which were used in Jewish liturgy at the great religious festivals, (Passover, Festival of Weeks, Tabernacles, Dedication and New Moon – see **Leviticus 23**)

**Psalms 113 & 114** were sung before the Festival meal and **Psalms 115-118** would be sung after the meal.

When Jesus had celebrated the meal with His disciples, they went out to the Mount of Olives 'after they had sung a hymn'. This would have been the last four of the Hallel songs.

The Psalm has different voices speaking – sometimes a group of people, sometimes an individual.



## **A CALL TO WORSHIP Verses 1-4**

The Psalm starts and ends with 'Give thanks to the LORD for He is good; His love endures forever.'

Not only is everything that God does is good but He IS good.

This is not just a call to the individual but a call to all the people.

*'Let Israel say... Let the House of Aaron say (the priests)... let those who fear the LORD say...'* This covers Jews and Gentiles and still applies today – we can rejoice that 'His love endures forever' and for that, we continue to give thanks.

## **AN ASSURANCE OF MERCY Verses 5-9**

Here is a personal testimony which all God's people can identify with. *"I cried to the LORD..."* And notice the responses:

- He brought me into a spacious place – cf **Psalm 18:19** – this speaks of freedom
- He is with me – speaks of His abiding presence

- He is my helper – speaks of strength and enabling
- He is a place of refuge – speaks of safety and security

And notice the effect this has :

- There is no need to fear
- There is victory over my enemies

## VICTORY IN THE NAME OF THE LORD Verses 10-20

The psalmist was surrounded by enemies. He describes them as *'like bees'*. We, too, are surrounded by enemies but we, too, know where to turn, as did the Psalmist.

- *'in the name of the LORD...'*
- *'the LORD helped me'*
- *'the LORD is my strength and my song'*
- *'the LORD is my salvation'*

This was the song that Moses sang with the Israelites when they came out of Egypt and across the Red Sea. (**Exodus 15:2**)

How did the Psalmist respond? Just as with Moses and Miriam and the Israelites, so here, there are the songs of triumph, recognising that it is the LORD who has brought about this victory.

*'The LORD's right hand has done mighty things'* – notice the threefold repetition.

And because it is the LORD who has done this ...

- I will live
- I will proclaim

Therefore I can come into His presence – **verses 19-21** - as the chorus reminds us: *'I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart, I will enter His courts with praise; this*

*is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice for He has made me glad.'*

## A LOOKING AHEAD TO JESUS Vs 22-29

What drew the writer to this statement about the cornerstone is discussed by many but one thing we do know is this – it was a prophetic word looking forward to Jesus. (This one verse is a separate study in itself.)

The Cornerstone was an important stone that held two rows of stones together in a corner or stabilised the stones at the foundation or elsewhere in the building.

Spurgeon says, *'He (Jesus) is the bond of the building, holding Jew and Gentile in firm unity. This precious cornerstone binds God and man together in wondrous amity (friendship) for He is both in one. He joins earth and heaven together, for He participates in each. He joins time and eternity together for He was a man of few years and yet He is the Ancient of Days. Wondrous Cornerstone.'*

This verse is quoted by Jesus Himself as relating to Him – see **Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17**.

Peter refers to this verse in **Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:4-7**.

Paul also refers to Jesus as the Cornerstone in **Ephesians 2:20**.

The Psalmist's final focus is on God – *'MY God.'*

No wonder he ends where he began – *'Give thanks to the LORD ...'*

So we too focus on God as we give thanks to Him, *'for He is good – all the time.'*



# DECEMBER EVENTS

## **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**7.30<sup>pm</sup> Grand Christmas Quiz** in Wick Hall.

Tickets £5 per head from David Farrer-Brown  
(01903 724129) or Eventbrite

[www.lyminsterchurch.org.uk/ChristmasQuiz](http://www.lyminsterchurch.org.uk/ChristmasQuiz)

Prizes & Raffle.

## **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**3.30<sup>pm</sup>** All Saints Family Service **Christingle** at  
Wick Hall

## **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**4-6<sup>pm</sup>** Free Family Film - **Nativity** - at Wick Hall

## **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

**4-5<sup>pm</sup>** All-ages informal **Carol Service** at Wick  
Hall. Refreshments from 3.30<sup>pm</sup>

## **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

**4-5.15<sup>pm</sup>** Traditional **Lessons & Carols** at  
Lyminster followed with refreshments

## **Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**4<sup>pm</sup> Crib Services** at both churches.

**11<sup>pm</sup> Midnight Communion** at Lyminster

## **Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**8<sup>am</sup> BCP Holy Communion** at Lyminster

**10<sup>am</sup> All-age Christmas Service** at All Saints

## **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

**9<sup>am</sup> Quiet Communion** at All Saints



# Lights on for CHRISTMAS



**Saturday  
27<sup>th</sup> Nov  
at Wick  
Hall and  
Car Park**



The Friends of Mombasa Children

Reg. Charity Number 1155625

# Christmas Sale & Christmas Tree Festival

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 4.00 – 7.00pm

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am – 3.00pm

Littlehampton United Church

Entrances in the High Street & Arundel Road



Christmas Goods,  
Cosmetics, Jewellery,  
African Goods, Cards,  
Candles, Refreshments

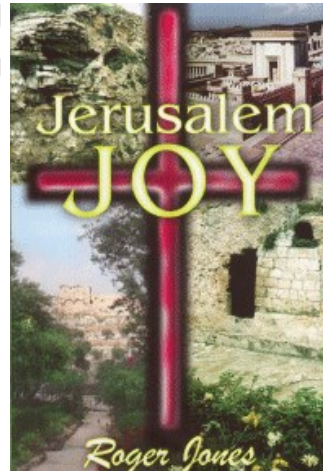


**Free Admission**

## Coming soon!

We're planning a musical for Easter and are looking for singers/dancers/actors/admin help/ wardrobe help. (You don't need to be musically trained to sing in the choir !) Rehearsals begin in January for 12 weeks with 3 performances planned over the Easter weekend. Please think about getting involved.

Further details from Jane Hicks  
(tel 07896 175268).




# BOOKS

Two new books by  
members of  
All Saints

**Freedom for Prisoners** can be purchased from Olympia Publishers or from Amazon as an eBook as well as paperback.

JAN WHITMORE & MINTIE NEL



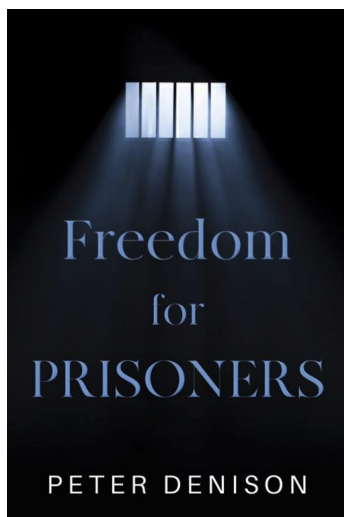
**Cross Centred Care**  
a mission of encouragement

Released November 2021!

*"Cross Centred Care" by Jan Whitmore and Mintie Nel (ISBN 978 150 5660258).*

*Available from Amazon as a paperback or as a Kindle e-book for download.*

*All proceeds will be reinvested into the care and support of God's workers.*



For every Christian that seeks to know the ways of God and loves a good testimony, **Cross Centred Care** will thrill you. It challenges church pastors, home mission committees, mission agency leaders, member care personnel and the missionaries themselves to think again about improving member care.

Available from Amazon as a paperback and eBook.

# THANK YOU!

**Thank you to everyone who helped at and supported the Lyminster Church Christmas Fayre and Craft Morning. It was a great atmosphere in Wick Hall and we raised over £1,000. Thank you!**

# CONTACTS

## CLERGY



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Tom's family day is Friday

**CURATE: Rev Mark Rodger**

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Mark's study day is Friday

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Please email [janegeorgehicks@uwclub](mailto:janegeorgehicks@uwclub) if you would like someone included on the prayer list or have something you wish to be included in the monthly publication.